

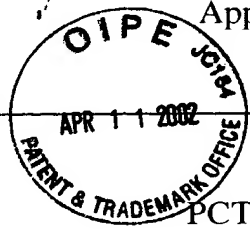
Group No. 1645

Application No. 09/869,685

March 28, 2002

Attorney Docket No. P 23,565-A USA

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AI --This is a U.S. national stage application of international Application No. PCT/US99/31284, filed December 30, 1999, which claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. provisional Application No. 60/114,520, filed December 30, 1998.--

REMARKS

The status of the present application is that applicant is awaiting a first Action on the merits.

The above amendment was made for the purpose of claiming the benefit of an earlier filed application under 37 C.F.R. §1.78. Since the present application is currently pending and is the U.S. national stage of an international application filed before November 29, 2000, the present amendment is filed timely under 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(2).

An early and favorable Action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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